



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CHAFEE ANNOUNCES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MANUFACTURERS AFFECTED BY IMPORT COMPETITION

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration has allocated \$539,465 in reserve funding to assist approximately sixty-six dislocated, trade-affected workers in Rhode Island. The funds were distributed as part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, which provides assistance to individuals who have become unemployed as a result of increased imports from, or shifts in production to, foreign countries.

"The Trade Adjustment Assistance program is an important means of compensating Rhode Islanders affected by the unfortunate reality of overseas importation," Senator Chafee said. "I appreciate this grant award given by the Department of Labor to help Rhode Islanders overcome this crisis and return to meaningful work as soon as possible," he continued.

The funds will be given to the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, which is responsible for the administration of the TAA program. Of this award, 15 percent or approximately \$80,919, will be used for administrative purposes while the balance will be used to further the program's ultimate goal of helping affected workers return to suitable employment as quickly as possible. The program provides substantial financial assistance to defray the cost of projects aimed at strengthening operations and sharpening competitiveness for manufacturers in a variety of industries. Rhode Island received an initial \$793,597 under the base allocation distribution for fiscal year 2005, while these additional funds have been made available from the TAA reserve account for states that experience unexpected layoffs.

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